

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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- 1 1. A patient data information system, comprising:  
2 a display unit;  
3 a first application configured to display patient images for a  
4 patient on the display unit;  
5 a second application; and  
6 a workstation coupled to the display unit and configured to  
7 operate the first application, the first application configured to generate a  
8 patient context for the patient, provide the patient context to the second  
9 application, and display patient data from the second application based on  
10 the patient context.
- 1 2. The patient data information system of claim 1, wherein the  
2 first application is configured to retrieve patient image data from a picture  
3 archival and communication system (PACS).
- 1 3. The patient data information system of claim 2, wherein the  
2 second application is configured to retrieve patient textual data from a  
3 radiology information system (RIS), wherein the patient data includes the  
4 patient textual data.
- 1 4. The patient data information system of claim 1, wherein the  
2 display unit includes a monitor having a resolution of at least 90 dpi.
- 1 5. The patient data information system of claim 1, wherein the  
2 second application is selected from the group consisting of a case signout  
3 application, a report entry application, an order detailing application, and  
4 an order viewer application.

1           6.     The patient data information system of claim 1, further  
2     comprising a second workstation coupled to the workstation, the second  
3     workstation configured to operate the second application.

1           7.     The patient data information system of claim 1, wherein the  
2     second application is coupled to the first application via an object request  
3     broker.

1           8.     The patient data information system of claim 7, further  
2     comprising a bridge coupled between the second application and the  
3     object request broker, wherein the second application communicates via  
4     the component object model (COM).

1           9.     The patient data information system of claim 1, further  
2     comprising an input unit, the first application generating the patient  
3     context in response to user input at the input unit.

1           10.    The patient data information system of claim 9, wherein the  
2     input unit is selected from the group consisting of a mouse, a voice  
3     recognition system, a keystroke, a switch, and a light pen.

1           11.    The patient data information system of claim 1, wherein the  
2     patient context includes patient identification data.

1           12.    The patient data information system of claim 11, wherein the  
2     patient context includes user identification data.

1           13.    The patient data information system of claim 1, wherein the  
2     patient data includes patient examination information.

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1           14.    A method of integrating patient data from first and second  
2     applications, comprising:

3 displaying a first set of patient data using the first  
4 ~~application;~~  
5 generating a patient context for a patient;  
6 providing the patient context from the first application to the  
7 second application;  
8 receiving a second set of patient data from the second  
9 application; and  
10 displaying the second set of patient data.

4 15. The method of claim 14, further comprising retrieving the  
2 first set of patient data from an image database.

1 16. The method of claim 15, further comprising retrieving the  
2 second set of patient data from a radiology information system.

1 17. The method of claim 14, wherein the patient context  
2 includes patient identification data.

1 18. The method of claim 14, wherein the step of providing  
2 includes generating an event based on the patient context and providing  
3 the event to the second application.

1 19. The method of claim 18, further comprising converting the  
2 event from a first object model to a second object model and providing  
3 the converted event to the second application.

1 20. The method of claim 14, wherein the second application is  
2 selected from the group consisting of a case signout application, a report  
3 entry application, an order detailing application, and an order viewer  
4 application.

1           21. The method of claim 14, further comprising receiving an  
2 operator input from an input unit and generating the patient context for  
3 the patient in response to the operator input.

1           22. The method of claim 14, wherein the second set of patient  
2 data includes patient examination information.

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3           23. An apparatus for integrating patient data from first and  
4 second applications comprising:  
1               a means for displaying a first set of patient data using the  
2 first application;  
3               a means for generating a patient context for a patient;  
4               a means for providing the patient context from the first  
5 application to the second application;  
6               a means for receiving a second set of patient data from the  
7 second application; and  
8               a means for displaying the second set of patient data..

1           24. The method of claim 23, further comprising a means for  
2 retrieving the first set of patient data from an image database.

1           25. The method of claim 24, further comprising a means for  
2 retrieving the second set of patient data from a radiology information  
3 system.

1           26. The method of claim 23, wherein the patient context  
2 includes the means for identifying a patient..

1           27. The method of claim 23, wherein the means for providing  
2 includes a means for generating an event based on the patient context  
3 and providing the event to the second application.

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1 28. The method of claim 27, further comprising a means for  
2 converting the event from a first object model to a second object model  
3 and a means for providing the converted event to the second application.

1 29. The method of claim 23, wherein the second application is  
2 selected from the group consisting of a case signout application, a report  
3 entry application, an order detailing application, and an order viewer  
4 application.

1 30. The method of claim 23, further comprising a means for  
2 receiving an operator input and generating the patient context for the  
3 patient in response to the operator input.

1 31. The method of claim 23, wherein the second set of patient  
2 data includes a means for providing patient examination information.

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